Mr. Wendell Rawls
New York Times
1920 L St., NW
Wash, D.C.

6/9/77

Dear Wendell,

Your in-office day was a short one. Hope not because of illness.

Early in the morning I leave on a trip that may last several weeks.

One of the reasons I phoned is to remind you that you promised to send me a copy of the Memphis book review referring to access to police reports. FOIA need.

Another is to go into an AP story about the committee's people being at the Missouri pen - and what it clearly means from the unquestioning story.

For the most important I do not now have time to give you the details.

One of the early flaps that slapped the committee was its intent to use police-state devices. These were in the budget until Don Edwards made the right noises. Then it was explained away as a misunderstanding - the committee, perish any such nasty press suggestion, had no such intent.

I have a source to protect so if you want to pursue this please wait until the middle of next week and then pretend you know nothing - that you are following up on the old story.

If you wait until I return I'll tell you more.

Without the committee figuring in it officially this has been done.

With a tape made clandestinely of a phone conversation.

My understanding is that there is nothing wrong with the taping of a conversation over the phone as long as no use is made of it.

A nut close to the committee made such a call, made a tape and it has been subjected to a PSE. I have a partial reading. I expect a full one. I can tell you who the expert was but for now withhold it.

It is important to protect my source, even against accident.

Therefore I suggest that if you go after this you do it as an assigned follow-up and get all the solid and official denials. If you cannot go farthur on your own after I am back I'll help.

But please say and do nothing until I've been away a few days.

Best,